

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: CSCE: CBMS: SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS

REFS: USNATO 1730; B) GENEVA 1848; C) USNATO 1742, D)

USNATO 1854

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS US STUDY OF  
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SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS WHICH PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR CBM  
DISCUSSION. GIVEN THE INEVITABLE GAPS IN THE INFORMATION,  
WE PREFER TO STATE ESTIMATES OF NUMBERS OF SOVIET EXERCISES  
IN TERMS OF RANGES RATHER THAN TRY TO PIN DOWN SINGLE

FIGURES. YOU MAY DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON TEXT BELOW, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, WHICH IS NECESSARILY CAUTIOUS IN ORDER TO BE NATO RELEASABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. CALCULATING SOVIET NATIONAL MANEUVERS. FOR PURPOSES OF DEFINITION, A MANEUVER AT DIVISION LEVEL OR ABOVE IS ASSUMED TO BE AN EXERCISE INVOLVING ACTUAL DEPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD OF MAJOR ELEMENTS OF TWO OR MORE OPPOSING DIVISIONS, EACH CONTROLLED TACTICALLY BY A DIVISION COMMANDER.

3. EVIDENCE OF EXERCISE ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR IS INADEQUATE FOR DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF SUCH MANEUVERS CONDUCTED BY SOVIET GROUND FORCES. DATA ON FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES, TENDS TO BE INCOMPLETE, IS LARGELY UNSUITED FOR JUDGING ACTUAL TROOP PARTICIPATION, AND IS LIMITED IN ITS COVERAGE. SUCH EVIDENCE AS IS AVAILABLE, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT A MINIMUM OF 40 TO 50 MANEUVERS/EXERCISES WERE CONDUCTED IN THE THREE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS (BALTIC, BELORUSSIAN, AND CARPATHIAN) OF THE USSR AND IN THE NSWP COUNTRIES DURING 1974.

4. THE FOLLOWING GENERALIZED JUDGMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE ON FIELD TRAINING OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

A) EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT SOME CATEGORY I DIVISIONS BOTH IN THE GROUPS OF FORCES AND IN THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS, PROBABLY ENGAGE IN EXERCISES (DIVISION AND ABOVE) TWICE A YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE THREE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS (BALTIC, BELORUSSIAN, AND CARPATHIAN) THERE ARE 28 GROUND DIVISIONS, THREE OF WHICH ARE CATEGORY I. THIS WOULD SUGGEST A TOTAL OF SIX DIVISIONAL EXERCISES (NOT DIVISION-LEVEL MANEUVERS) EACH YEAR IN THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS.

B) SOME EVIDENCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THERE IS A GEN-  
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ERAL REQUIREMENT FOR CATEGORY II DIVISIONS TO BE FLESHED OUT WITH RESERVISTS ONCE EACH YEAR FOR A DIVISIONAL EXERCISE. THERE ARE 18 CATEGORY II DIVISIONS IN THE THREE DISTRICTS; THEREFORE, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE 18 DIVISIONAL EXERCISES.

C) OTHER INFORMATION SUGGESTS THAT, AS A GENERAL RULE, SOME CATEGORY III DIVISIONS ARE FLESHED OUT APPROXIMATELY ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS FOR A DIVISIONAL EXERCISE. THERE ARE SEVEN CATEGORY III DIVISIONS IN THESE DISTRICTS. THUS THREE OR FOUR DIVISIONAL EXERCISES THEORETICALLY WOULD BE HELD DURING THE COURSE OF A TRAINING YEAR.

5. ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, THE 28 SOVIET GROUND DIVISIONS LOCATED IN THE THREE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS MAY BE PRESUMED TO EXERCISE AS FOLLOWS:

THREE CATEGORY I DIVISIONS --- SIX EXERCISES PER TRAINING YEAR

18 CATEGORY II DIVISIONS --- 18 EXERCISES PER TRAINING

YEAR

7 CATEGORY III DIVISIONS --- 3 OR 4 EXERCISES PER TRAINING YEAR

TOTAL 27 OR 28 DIVISIONS EXERCISING IN WMD'S PER TRAINING YEAR

6. ALL 31 SOVIET DIVISIONS ESTABLISHED IN EASTERN EUROPE (20 IN EAST GERMANY, 2 POLAND, 4 HUNGARY, 5 CZECHOSLOVAKIA) ARE IN CATEGORY I. OUR DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE RULE FOR CATEGORY I DIVISIONS IN THE THREE WESTERN MD'S REQUIRING TWO EXERCISES PER YEAR PROBABLY ALSO APPLIES TO SOVIET DIVISIONS STATIONED OUTSIDE THE USSR. HENCE, THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONAL EXERCISES FOR THESE 31 DIVISIONS IS APPROXIMATELY 62 DURING A YEAR.

7. COMBINING THE TOTALS OF PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 YIELDS A MAXIMUM THEORETICAL TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 90 SOVIET  
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DIVISION LEVEL EXERCISES PER YEAR IN THE THREE WMDS OF THE USSR AND NSWP COUNTRIES. IN ALL PROBABILITY THIS THEORETICAL REQUIREMENT WOULD BE SATISFIED, IN PART, BY EXERCISES INVOLVING ELEMENTS OF TWO OR MORE DIVISIONS WHICH ARE SUBORDINATE TO AN ARMY OR HIGHER LEVEL COMMAND WHICH ARE, IN TURN, SUPPORTED BY AVIATION AND OTHER COMBAT AND SERVICE SUPPORT ELEMENTS. HENCE, THE ACTUAL TOTAL IS LIKELY TO BE CLOSER TO THE FIGURE OF 40 TO 50 EXERCISES STATED IN PARAGRAPH 2 THAN THE 90 ABOVE. KISSINGER

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